



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

March 8, 2021

The Honourable John Horgan, M.L.A.
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Horgan,

Re: New Solutions to Mental Health Crisis Emergency Calls

On March 1, 2021 Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and resolved as follows:

"That Council:

- *Direct the Mayor to write to the Premier of British Columbia, the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing, the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and the Minister of Health asking for appropriate funding and commitments to new policy, budget and legal frameworks that support creation of a separate and distinct system to address the volume and variety of mental health calls requiring rapid response without further burdening the current 911 system and which will be resourced and administered through the Provincial Ministry of Health; and*
- *The report be forwarded to the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act."*

A copy of the report dated February 19 and excerpt of the March 1 meeting minutes are enclosed for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Haynes", written over a horizontal line.

Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
The Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
The Honourable David Eby, Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing
The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions



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Via email: c/o rachel.mattiuz@saanich.ca

April 27, 2021

Their Worship Fred Haynes
Mayor of the District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

Dear Mayor Haynes:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 8, 2021, regarding Saanich Council's report on new solutions to mental health crisis emergency calls. I apologize for the delayed response.

I recognize that the volume of urgent requests for help with mental health and substance use challenges in the community continues to strain the resources of municipalities and police agencies. This [ministry's mandate](#) includes multiple commitments focused on a multi-sectoral approach to supporting individuals with mental health and addiction issues. This includes working with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to invest more in community-based mental health and social services to help people in crisis and free up police resources.

Ministry staff will consider the information you have provided as they move forward with this work. As well, I am pleased to note that you have forwarded Saanich Council's report to the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act. Ministry staff are monitoring the work of this committee and will take its recommendations into consideration as they develop options related to community mental health crisis response.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to share Saanich Council's concerns and views with me. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SM", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sheila Malcolmson
Minister